

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W  
-----012112 091953 /63

R 011329Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
CNO WASHDC  
COMIDEASTFOR  
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//  
USCINCEUR  
USS LASALLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1136

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KU  
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO VISIT OF MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP

REF: KUWAIT 4729

1. MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP USS LASALLE MADE ROUTINE OPERATIONAL  
VISIT TO KUWAIT FEB 19 - 21. AS IN THE CASE OF SEPTEMBER 1976  
VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS CAPADANNO, (REFTEL), THE GOK  
RECEPTION WAS GENERALLY WARM AND COOPERATIVE, BUT THE GOK AGAIN  
HAD THE VESSEL ANCHOR RATHER THAN DOCK (CITING SAFETY AND SECURITY  
OF OIL FACILITIES AT MINA AL-AHMADI WHERE IT WAS ASSIGNED  
ANCHORAGE). WE CAN EXPECT NO CHANGE IN THIS RESPECT UNTIL  
KUWAIT NAVAL BASE IS COMPLETED; THEN VISITING SHIPS WILL  
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PROBABLY BE BERTHED THERE. THE GOK  
ALSO KEPT THE SAME CLOSE AND COURTEOUS CONTROL OF ALL CREW  
LIBERTY GROUPS AS IN PREVIOUS VISITS. USN OFFICERS WERE  
ALLOWED TO TRAVEL UNSUPERVISED (AND WERE OFFERED LOCAL CLUB  
FACILITIES FREE) BUT CREW WAS ALWAYS ESCORTED, EXCEPT DURING  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY FAMILY DINNERS WE ARRANGED FOR 50 INDIVIDUAL  
CREW MEMBERS.

2. THERE WAS REASONABLY GOOD PUBLICITY FOR THE LASALLE VISIT; COURTESY CALLS ON SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE PICTURED IN PRESS AND ON T.V. VISITS MADE BY COS CAPT. SMITH AND CO LASALLE (TO KUWAIT ARMED FORCES COS, UNDERSEC OF MOD, AND GOVERNOR OF AHMADI) WERE VALUABLE. EMBASSY WISHES UNDERLINE, ALSO, REPEATED AND WORTHWHILE CONTACTS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND LASALLE OFFICERS, ON ONE HAND, AND SMALL KUWAITI NAVAL STAFF (INCLUDING CNO), ON THE OTHER.

3. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED KUWAIT OIL CO. (KOC) WAS THE ADMINISTRATIVE HOST FOR THE SHIP, AND BOTH IT AND THE MOD ACCEPTED WITH MINOR CHANGES THE VISIT PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULE DRAWN UP BY THE EMBASSY ON BASIS OF PRIOR SUCCESSFUL SHIP VISIT. SCHEDULE INCLUDED, IN ADDITION TO ELEMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE: SEVERAL SHOPPING TRIPS FOR CREW; VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR CREW AT KOC EMPLOYEE CLUBS; SOCCER GAMES WITH KOC AND MILITARY ACADEMY TEAMS (THE LATTER DID NOT TAKE PLACE DUE TO TIMING MIXUP); A LUNCHEON FOR KOC AND KUWAITI MILITARY NOTABLES ON BOARD LASALLE, (ALTHOUGH, AS PREVIOUSLY, KUWAITIS OF SENIOR RANK PLEADED OTHER ENGAGEMENTS); A VISIT TO LASALLE BY SOME 70 LOCAL HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS, AMERICANS AND OTHERS; AND A SIZEABLE RECEPTION FOR ALL SHIP'S OFFICERS AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY, KUWAITI MILITARY, RESIDENT DIPLOMATS AND GOK OFFICIALS.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE LASALLE VISIT TO HAVE BEEN ALMOST AS SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTION OF US INTERESTS AS SEPTEMBER 1976 VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS CAPADANNO, WHICH WAS ITSELF A CONSIDER-  
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ABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS. FACT PRESS COVERAGE WAS SLIGHTLY LESS MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY RESULT OF DIMINISHED PERCEIVED NEED ON PART OF GOK TO IDENTIFY ITSELF PUBLICLY WITH US MILITARY POWER. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT SEPTEMBER VISIT CAME IN WAKE OF THEN-RECENT BORDER INCURSIONS BY IRAQ AND UNSETTLED (FOR KUWAIT) INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION DUE TO CONTROVERSIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS.

5. FOR USS LASALLE: EMBASSY'S COMPLIMENTS TO CAPT. FETTERMAN AND CREW, WITH THANKS FOR HOSPITALITY ABOARD SHIP AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITY ASHORE. IT WAS A PLEASURE HAVING YOU AND CAPT. SMITH IN KUWAIT.  
MAESTRONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009